

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 9, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 9, 2007. Claims 1-23, 25-48, 50-59, 66, 70-79, 81, 84-104, 106, 108-115, and 121-147 are currently pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 121 and 124 due to informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claims 121 and 124 accordingly. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the objection to claims 121 and 124 be removed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 142 and 147 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Brandelli* (U.S. 4,246,964). Applicants have cancelled claims 142 and 147, thereby obviating the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-23, 25-48, 50-59, 66, 76-79, 81, 84-104, 115, 121-130 are allowed. Applicants appreciate allowance of these claims.

The Examiner objected to claims 143-146 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 143-146 as new claims 148, 149, 151, and 152, respectively. Additionally, since claim 150 depends from claim 149, this claim is allowable for at the same reasons as claim 149. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 148-152 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/CRUI/0010/WBP for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Dated: 9 OCT 07

Respectfully submitted,

By William B. Patterson
William B. Patterson
Registration No.: 34,102
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP
3040 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 623-4844
Attorney For Applicants